

COMMERCIAL FISHING IN OREGON, 2002

Landings and value decrease in 2002

Oregon's 2002 commercial fish landings of 210.2 million pounds (round weight) were down 10 percent from 2001's 233.8 million pounds. The \$65.2 million value of the catch was down nearly six percent from last year's \$69.1 million value due to decreased landed values for tuna, groundfish, and whiting.

Three groups of species; tuna, groundfish, and whiting decreased in poundage. The 4.4 million pounds of tuna landed is 51 percent less than 2001's 9.0 million pounds. Groundfish (excluding Pacific Whiting) landings were down by 33 percent from last year with 21.1 million pounds, as the tightening of harvest regulations by state and Federal fisheries managers has continued. Whiting landings were down by 39 percent to only 71.2 million pounds, the lowest total since 1991.

Salmon landings and values increased again in 2002 compared to 2001. Salmon poundage increased from 5.3 million to 6.1 million. Salmon values increased by 18 percent from \$5.9 million to \$6.9 million. Crab landings increased from 9.7 million pounds in 2001 to 12.4 million in 2002. The value of crab increased by eight percent from \$19.2 million to \$20.7 million. Shrimp landed value increased from \$7.6 million to \$11.4 million along with an increase in poundage from 28.5 million pounds to 41.6 million.

Commercial species harvested

Groundfish

Groundfish is a collective name given to about 80 species of fish generally possessing white flesh, residing in the middle depths of the ocean, on ocean bottoms, and around reefs and offshore rocks. Included in the groundfish sector are flatfish, rockfish and other roundfish such as ling cod. Groundfish landings (excluding Pacific Whiting) of 21.1 million pounds in 2002, continued the downward trend from 31.5 million pounds in 2001. This was due to increasingly restrictive harvest regulations, which have affected the operations of the trawl fishery in particular. The value of groundfish, excluding whiting, was only \$14.2 million in 2002 compared to \$20.4 million in 2001, and \$24.3 million in 2000.

Whiting

Whiting is shown as a separate column again. Whiting has been the species with the greatest landed pounds since 1992. Since late 1990, only US vessels have harvested this species. Oregon landings of whiting are expected to continue to be the largest component of groundfish landings. Whiting is the major constituent of the surimi (a highly refined form of minced fish meat used for a variety of analog fish products, such as imitation crab) that is shipped primarily to Asian markets. Whiting prices received by harvesters are relatively low, so the ex-vessel value of whiting is below that of most other species groups.

Pink Shrimp

Pink shrimp landings increased 46 percent in 2002 from 2001. The value of \$11.4 million was a 50 percent increase from last year's \$7.6 million because average prices were slightly higher.

Salmon

In 2002, Oregon's salmon landings were 16 percent above the 2001 levels, and represented the highest poundage since 1989. Significant harvest restrictions had been in place since 1994 to protect or enhance existing stocks of salmon, especially Coho. Ocean conditions have improved and even though significant restrictions on commercial Coho harvests remain in place, 2002 was the third consecutive year of increased harvests. Chinook salmon harvests were 81 percent of the total salmon catch, and almost all of the ocean salmon catch. The total ex-vessel value of the 2002 salmon harvest was \$6.9 million, compared to \$5.9 million in 2001.

Dungeness Crab

Dungeness crab landings for calendar year 2002 increased by 28 percent from 2001. In calendar year 2002, 12.4 million pounds were landed compared to 2001's 9.7 million pounds. The ex-vessel value of the landings increased to \$20.7 million, an eight percent increase from 2001's \$19.2 million value. From the fishery's seasonal perspective, the crab season running from December, 2001, through August, 2002, had landings of 12.4 million pounds and a value of \$20.7 million, compared to the previous season's 9.7 million pounds and \$19.2 million landed value.

Tuna

Landings of tuna (Albacore) decreased in 2002 to 4.4 million pounds compared to the 9.0 million pounds landed in 2001. The value of 2002 tuna landings also decreased to \$3.0 million, a 61 percent decrease compared to the value of \$7.6 million received by harvesters in 2001.

Other species

Landings of other species increased significantly in 2002 to 53.3 million pounds compared to 32.1 million pounds landed in 2001. Harvest value also continued to increase in 2002, to \$5.9 million versus the \$4.4 million received for other species in 2001. The main source of the improvement continues to be the remarkable resurgence of the sardine fishery off the north coast. Sardine landings amounted to 50.1 million pounds of the other species total, and had a value of over \$2.8 million, compared to \$1.6 million in 2001. Other valuable species in this category include halibut, sturgeon, clams, crayfish and sea urchins.

Oysters

Oyster production in 2002, at 29,801 gallons, was 27 percent smaller than the 2001 production. The value of this production, at \$1,043,000, was also 27 percent lower than 2001 revenue.

Trout

The value of commercial trout production for 2002 was over \$801 thousand. This is 64 percent lower than 2001 production.